



JOHN ENGEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

EXHIBIT

4  
3/13/07  
489

March 13, 2007

Chairman Elsie Arntzen  
and Members of the House Local Government Committee  
House Local Government Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4825

Madam Chair and Honorable Members of the House Local Government Committee:

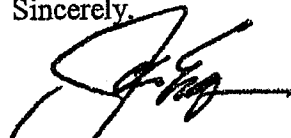
The City of Missoula respectfully requests that you oppose Senate Bill 349, conservation district representation on certain city planning boards. Passage of this bill would require that a city planning board include a member appointed by a conservation district board of supervisors if any part of the boundaries for which the city planning board is established to include any portion of the conservation district. It further requires that this appointee be either a conservation district supervisor or associate supervisor.

Appointments to city planning boards have been and should remain the purview of the Mayor and City Council of the city in question. Granting another local government the authority to place a member of its governing body upon the planning board of another local government is inappropriate. Cities and conservation districts have communicated effectively on issues of common interest for years without any mandated representation of one entity upon an advisory panel of the other entity.

We are also concerned about the time burden such an appointment would place on an already busy supervisor or associate supervisor, the added difficulty achieving a quorum with added planning board membership, and the need to appoint an additional individual to the planning board to provide for an odd number of members to reduce the potential for tie votes.

This bill does not solve any problems that we are aware of, and potentially creates difficulty for a city regarding planning board attendance and procedure.

Sincerely,



John Engen  
Mayor

cc: The Missoula Delegation  
Alec Hanson, Director Montana League of Cities and Towns